

**Amended Pages 8, 9, 9a, 10:**

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**Claims**

- Subj1*
1. A method for safely coupling an external voltage network to an operating voltage network, in particular of a motor vehicle,  
in which at least one controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) is arranged between the  
operating voltage network (BN) and a connecting terminal (VK), the at  
least one controllable switch is connected to a control unit (SG), the  
connecting terminal (VK) is designed for connection of the external  
voltage network (FN) and the method comprises the following steps:
    - measuring the voltage at the connecting terminal (VK),
    - examining whether the measurement voltage is not below a lower threshold value and not in excess of an upper threshold value,
    - closing the controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) if the measurement voltage is within the permissible range,
    - measuring the current flowing between the connecting terminal (VK) and the operating voltage network (BN),
    - examining whether the current is not below a lower threshold value,
    - opening the at least one controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) if the current is outside the permissible range.
  2. A method according to claim 1,  
characterized in that the method steps are carried out with activated ignition lock ( $Q_1$ ) only.
  3. A method according to claim 1,

**SubA1**

characterized in that the controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) is opened when the current between the connecting terminal (VK) and the operating voltage network (BN) is in excess of an upper threshold value.

- 125 4. A method according to claim 1,  
characterized in that, after opening of the controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ), this state is maintained until the voltage at the connecting terminal (VK) drops to zero or falls below a lower threshold value.
- 130 5. A method according to claim 1,  
characterized in that the measurement of the voltage at the connecting terminal (VK) is carried out permanently during the entire process.
- 135 6. A method according to claim 1,  
characterized in that the results of the measurement result examination steps are output via a display unit (AE).
- 140 7. A method according to claim 1,  
characterized in that, after opening of the at least one controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ), said switch ( $Q_2$ ) is closed again at regular intervals in order to determine whether the operational state that caused opening of said switch ( $Q_2$ ) is still present.
- 145 8. A circuit arrangement for carrying out the method according to any of claims 1 to 7, comprising:  
  
– a measuring means for measuring the voltage at the connecting terminal (VK),  
  
150 – an examining means for examining whether the measurement voltage is not below a lower threshold value and not in excess of an upper threshold value,

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- a means for closing the controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) if the measurement voltage is within the permissible range,
  - a means ( $ME_i$ ) for measuring the current flowing between the connecting terminal (VK) and the operating voltage network (BN),
  - a means for examining whether the current is not below a lower threshold value,
  - a means for opening the at least one controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) if the current is outside the permissible range.
- 165 9. A circuit arrangement according to claim 8,  
characterized in that the controllable switch ( $Q_2$ ) is a relay.
- 170 10. A circuit arrangement according to claim 8 or 9,  
characterized in that the connecting terminal (VK) is covered by a cap  
(AK) and the latter is connected to a switch ( $Q_3$ ) such that the switching  
state of said switch ( $Q_3$ ) changes upon removal of the cap from the  
connecting terminal (VK).
- 175 11. A circuit arrangement according to any of claims 8 to 10,  
characterized in that the operating voltage network (BN) is the supply  
network of a first motor vehicle (A) and that the external voltage net-  
work (FN) is the supply network of a second motor vehicle (B), or a  
charging device.
- 180 12. A circuit arrangement according to claim 8,  
characterized in that a measurement resistor ( $R_m$ ) is connected be-  
tween the terminal means of the connecting terminal (VK).